VZCZCXRO7132 PP RUEHMA RUEHPA DE RUEHUJA #0296 0441543 ZNR UUUUU ZZH P 131543Z FEB 08 FM AMEMBASSY ABUJA TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2086 INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 0168 RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 0006 RUEHOS/AMCONSUL LAGOS 8736 RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO 0011 RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0351 RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS RUEHPS/USOFFICE PRISTINA 0008

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DEPT FOR EUR/SCE

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TAGS: PREL PGOV UNAUS UNMIK YI EU NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIA: KOSOVO DEMARCHE DELIVERED

REF: STATE 13716

Poloff delivered reftel demarche February 13 to Minister Counsellor Maureen Labiran in the European Affairs Divsion of Nigeria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Labiran indicated that the GON was aware of Kosovo's planned declaration of independence and said that Nigeria was awaiting a decision by the African Union on whether or not to recognize the new state. She said that Nigeria plans to follow the common AU position once it has been agreed upon. Poloff noted that Nigeria will play an important role in determining the AU position, and urged immediate recognition of Kosovo. SANDERS